

Claims

What is claimed is:

I claim:

5 *See Fig. 1*

1. A method of completing a plurality of transactions on a computer network involving at least one customer computer and a plurality of merchant computers, said method comprising the following steps:

utilizing customer-inputted information to complete a first electronic commerce transaction between a customer computer and a first merchant computer, wherein said customer-inputted information contains a payment method and customer identification data required by said first merchant computer to process said first electronic commerce transaction;

transmitting an offer from a second merchant computer to said customer computer;

and

transmitting said customer-inputted information from said first merchant computer to said second merchant computer, provided said customer computer accepts said offer.

603221 0792/460

15 *See Fig. 2*

2. The method from claim 1 wherein said step of transmitting an offer is further comprised of the following steps:

sending an offer from said second merchant computer to said first merchant computer;

and

presenting said offer by said first merchant computer to said customer computer.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the following steps:

processing said customer-inputted information by said second merchant computer; and

causing merchandise to be delivered to a customer associated with said customer-inputted information.

4. The method from claim 1 wherein said step of transmitting an offer is further comprised of the following steps:

5
sending an offer from said second merchant computer to said first merchant computer;
storing said offer on said first merchant computer; and
presenting said offer by said first merchant computer to said customer computer.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein said merchandise is a predetermined number of issues of a periodical.

10 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of automatically debiting a customer account corresponding to said customer-inputted information after said predetermined number of issues have been delivered, provided said customer does not cancel future delivery of said periodical.

15 7. A method of completing a plurality of transactions on a computer network involving at least one customer computer and a plurality of merchant computers, said method comprising the following steps:

20 utilizing customer-inputted information to complete a first electronic commerce transaction between a customer computer and a first merchant computer, wherein said customer-inputted information contains a payment method and customer identification data required by said first merchant computer to process said first electronic commerce transaction;
transmitting an offer from at least a second merchant computer to said customer computer; and

a28
transmitting said customer-inputted information from said first merchant computer to said at least second merchant computer, provided said customer computer accepts said offer.

8. The method from claim 7 wherein said step of transmitting an offer is further comprised of the following steps:

5 sending an offer from said at least second merchant computer to said first merchant computer; and

presenting said offer by said first merchant computer to said customer computer.

9. The method from claim 7 wherein said step of transmitting an offer is further comprised of the following steps:

10 sending an offer from said at least second merchant computer to said first merchant computer;

storing said offer on said first merchant computer; and

presenting said offer by said first merchant computer to said customer computer.

10. A method of establishing a subscription to a periodical on a computer network involving at least one customer computer and a plurality of merchant computers, said method comprising the following steps:

15 transmitting an offer comprising at least one free issue of a periodical from a first merchant computer to a second merchant computer;

transmitting said offer from said second merchant computer to a customer computer;

20 receiving an acceptance of said offer by said first merchant computer, said acceptance comprising a payment method and customer identification data; and

causing said periodical to be delivered to a customer associated with said customer identification data.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said step of receiving an acceptance is further comprised of the following steps:

5 transmitting an acceptance of said offer from said customer computer to said second merchant computer; and

transmitting said acceptance from said second merchant computer to said first merchant computer.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of automatically debiting a customer account in accordance with said payment method.

13. The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of:
automatically debiting a customer account in accordance with said payment method,
upon expiration of said predetermined period of time; and

maintaining uninterrupted delivery of said periodical, provided said subscription has
15 not been canceled.

14. A computer system for completing a plurality of transactions on a computer network involving at least one customer computer and a plurality of merchant computers, comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

20 a processor configured to use the program instructions to access customer-inputted information to complete a first electronic commerce transaction between a customer computer and a first merchant computer, wherein said customer-inputted information contains a

5 payment method and customer identification data required by said first merchant computer to process said first electronic commerce transaction; to transmit an offer from a second merchant computer to said customer computer; and to transmit said customer-inputted information from said first merchant computer to said second merchant computer, provided said customer computer accepts said offer.

15. The computer system according to claim 14, wherein the transmitting instruction is further comprised of the following instructions:

send an offer from said second merchant computer to said first merchant computer;

and

present said offer by said first merchant computer to said customer computer.

16. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the processor is further configured to:

process said customer-inputted information by said second merchant computer; and

cause merchandise to be delivered to a customer associated with said customer-

15 inputted information.

17. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the merchandise is a predetermined number of issues of a periodical.

18. The computer system of claim 17, wherein the processor is further configured to automatically debit a customer account in accordance with said method of payment after
20 said predetermined number of issues have been delivered, provided said customer does not cancel future delivery of said periodical.

19. A computer system for establishing a subscription to a periodical on a computer network involving at least one customer computer and a plurality of merchant computers, comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

5 a processor configured to use the program instructions to transmit an offer comprising at least one free issue of a periodical; to transmit said offer from said second merchant computer to a customer computer; to receive an acceptance of said offer by said first merchant computer, said acceptance comprising a payment method and customer identification data; and to cause a subscription to said periodical to be delivered to a customer associated with said customer identification data for a predetermined period of time.

20. The computer system according to claim 19, wherein the receiving instruction is further comprised of the following instructions:

transmit an acceptance of said offer from said customer computer to said second merchant computer; and

15 transmit said acceptance from said second merchant computer to said first merchant computer.

21. The computer system according to claim 20, further comprised of the instruction to automatically debit a customer account in accordance with said payment method.

20 22. The computer system according to claim 19, wherein the processor is further configured to:

automatically debit a customer account in accordance with said payment method, upon expiration of said predetermined period of time; and

maintain uninterrupted delivery of said periodical, provided said subscription has not been canceled.

5

23. A system for completing a plurality of transactions on a computer network involving at least one customer computer and a plurality of merchant computers, comprising:

means for utilizing customer-inputted information to complete a first electronic commerce transaction between a customer computer and a first merchant computer, wherein said customer-inputted information contains a payment method and customer identification data required by said first merchant computer to process said first electronic commerce transaction;

means for transmitting an offer from a second merchant computer to said customer computer; and

means for transmitting said customer-inputted information from said first merchant computer to said second merchant computer, provided said customer computer accepts said offer.

15

24. The system according to claim 23 wherein the means for transmitting an offer is further comprised of the following steps:

sending an offer from said second merchant computer to said first merchant computer;

20

and

presenting said offer by said first merchant computer to said customer computer.

25. The system according to claim 23 wherein the means for transmitting an offer is further comprised of the following steps:

5 sending an offer from said second merchant computer to said first merchant computer;
storing said offer on said first merchant computer; and
presenting said offer by said first merchant computer to said customer computer.

26. The system according to claim 23, further comprising means for:
processing said customer-inputted information by said second merchant computer; and
causing merchandise to be delivered to a customer associated with said customer-
inputted information.

27. The system of claim 26 further comprising means for automatically debiting a customer account in accordance with said payment method after said predetermined number of issues have been delivered, provided said customer does not cancel future delivery of said periodical.

28. A system for establishing a subscription to a periodical on a computer network involving at least one customer computer and a plurality of merchant computers, comprising:
means for transmitting an offer comprising at least one free issue of a periodical from a first merchant computer to a second merchant computer;

means for transmitting said offer from said second merchant computer to a customer computer;

20 means for receiving an acceptance of said offer by said first merchant computer, said acceptance comprising a payment method and customer identification data; and

means for causing a predetermined number of said periodicals to be delivered to a customer associated with said customer identification data.

29. The system according to claim 28, wherein the means for receiving an acceptance is further comprised of:

means for transmitting an acceptance of said offer from said customer computer to said second merchant computer; and

means for transmitting said acceptance from said second merchant computer to said first merchant computer.

30. The system according to claim 29, further comprising the means for automatically debiting a customer account in accordance with said payment method.

31. The system according to claim 28, further comprising:

means for automatically debiting a customer account in accordance with said payment method, upon expiration of said predetermined period of time; and

means for maintaining uninterrupted delivery of said periodical, provided said subscription has not been canceled.